Dowry deaths

1241. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR. Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of dowry deaths in the country is on the rise;

(b) if so, the number of deaths reported during the last three calendar years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed io be taken by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRl l.D. SWAM1): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Curbing Bodo aspiration for separate State

1242. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to curb Bodo aspirations for a separate State; and

(b) the measures taken to ensure that Bodo Autonomous Council gets its administrative and financial need?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI l.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of settlement popularly known as the Bodo Accord was signed on February 20, 1993 with the objective to provide maximum autonomy to the Bodos within the framework of the Constitution for their social, economic, educational and cultural advancement.

As per the provisions of the Bodoland Autonomous Council (BAC) Act 1993, the BAC has been delegated wide ranging administrative powers over a number of subjects. In addition to the normal Plan & Non-Plan assistance, the BAC areas get funds from Government of India under Special Central Assistance and Non-Lapsable Pool of Central Resources to accelerate economic development in the BAC areas.

Exodus of Sikhs from J&K

1243. SHRl NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HOMEAFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sikhs from Kashmir valley have started their exodus because of the failure of the law enforcing agencies to protect them from the militants; and